

# Communique 4 - Offender Health Services Governance Improvement Project

## Offender Health Services Steering Committee Alliance (OHSSCA)

The fifth meeting of OHSSCA was held on 7 June 2018. At this meeting members received a status update of the Offender Health Services Governance Improvement Project (OHSGIP) and discussed the key themes that arose from the consultations conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) with key stakeholders.

### OHSGIP update

- Members were advised that the project remains on track.
- Over the next few weeks PwC will be finalising consultations and will commence the data analysis of offender health services. Once the consultation and data analysis is completed PwC will then develop a plan to improve the governance of offender health services.

### Consultation themes

OHSSCA members discussed a high-level overview of PwC's consultation themes following their discussions with key stakeholders as well as from their visits to correctional centres throughout Queensland. Some of the key themes identified include:

- The health of prisoners is of vital importance, as upon release, they will return to live in their local communities. As such their health can affect the health of the wider community.
- The strength of relationships between correctional service staff and broader Hospital and Health Service staff is essential to enable the efficient and effective delivery of health services whilst maintaining the safety and security of prisoners and staff.
- Delivering health services in a correctional centre is vastly different to delivering health services in the wider community due to the environment and the nature of health conditions present in the prison population. These differences need to be recognised in the future model of health services.
- There are differences in service models and resourcing between offender health services which impacts on capacity and continuity of care.
- There have been difficulties in attracting and retaining core health staff in some offender health services.
- The structured day of correctional service facilities poses challenges for both health and correctional staff in ensuring that appropriate health outcomes can be achieved. For example, it can create challenges for prisoners to be able to access health services when needed and can reduce the capacity of prisoners to manage their own health conditions.
- The limited physical clinic space and the overcrowding of correctional centres is impacting on the capacity to provide efficient and effective health services. As a result, offender health services tend to focus on the immediate needs of prisoners and are not able to be proactive nor contribute to more rehabilitative approaches.

## Background

The Department of Health, in consultation with key stakeholders, is conducting a project to improve the governance of offender health services in Queensland: Offender Health Services Governance Improvement Project (OHSGIP). Further information about this project can be found on the Clinical Excellence Division website.

This project is being guided by the OHSSCA (pronounced “Oscar”) which is chaired by Dr John Wakefield, Deputy Director-General of the Clinical Excellence Division.

Membership of the steering committee is cross-sectorial and includes representatives from:

- Hospital and Health Services
- Queensland Corrective Services
- The Office of the Health Ombudsman
- Health Consumers Queensland
- The Queensland Nurses and Midwives’ Union

If you would like further information about this project please email [offenderhealth@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:offenderhealth@health.qld.gov.au)